CHAPTER VI

THE FIRST YEAR OF THE REPUBLIC

AFTER the Presidency had been assumed by Yuan Shih-kai Dr. Sun visited Wuchang, where he conferred with General Li Yuan-hung, and other officials. He arrived there on April 9,1912 ; on the i6th he sailed for the South from Shanghai, paying brief visits to several ports on his way to Canton. At Foochow he spoke in the Methodist Church on the Mission of the Church in rebuilding the nation. Arriving at Canton about April 25 he found conditions there far from satisfactory. The Southern Republicans were extremely suspicious of Yuan Shih-kai, and were very jealous of the Northern element in the new Cabinet. During his visit to the Southern city negotiations for a loan were opened with the Sextuple Banking Group. It soon became clear that in the then unstable condition of the new Government the securing of a substantial foreign loan was not going to prove an easy matter. Dr. Sun leapt into the fray with bitter denunciations of the attitude of the Foreign Powers, whom he accused of obstructing the financing of China. He declared that if they persisted in this policy it would be possible to secure all the financial assistance that China needed from

the Chinese people themselves. It is scarcely necessary to add that this was sheer bluff. For the Reorganization Loan Agreement was not signed